

Memorandum



Date: December 14, 2004

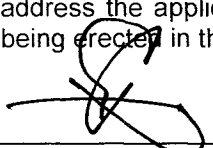
Agenda Item No. 11(B)6

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,
Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Report on Compliance with the County Sign Code
Resolution No. R-370-04

This item is being added onto the December 14, 2004, Board of County Commissioners agenda in order to timely address the applicability of the County's countywide sign code as it relates to murals and large signs currently being erected in the City of Miami.


Deputy County Manager

Memorandum

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Agenda Item No. 11(B)6

To:

Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,
Board of County Commissioners

From:

George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject:

Report on Compliance with the County Sign Code
Resolution No. R-370-04

This status report on municipal compliance with the Miami-Dade County Sign Code is provided at the recent request of Commissioner Katy Sorenson.

On March 16, 2004, Commissioners Sorenson and Carey-Shuler sponsored Resolution R-370-04, a Board-adopted Resolution directing staff to contact our municipalities regarding their compliance with the County's sign code. Said compliance review is in progress at this time as not all municipal sign compliance information has been provided to the County and Resolution R-370-04 calls for a staff report within 180 days after the last report from the various city managers. In summary, the Resolution calls for staff to contact the municipalities regarding commercial signs and billboards' compliance in their jurisdictions with County Code provisions. The Sign Code of Miami-Dade County is applicable in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

After research, on June 7, 2004, a letter was mailed under my signature to each municipality's manager or mayor setting a response due date of September 24, 2004. Upon receipt of the letter several municipalities contacted the Department of Planning and Zoning (DP&Z) for more information or advised that their sign code prohibits billboard signs. In the early part of September, DP&Z staff contacted each municipality that had not responded. Additional information and forms were sent to those who claimed no knowledge of having received said correspondence.

At this time, 24 of the 33 municipalities have responded to the study. The attached list illustrates how each municipality has complied with the provisions of Resolution No. R-370-04. The City of Coral Gables and North Bay Village have not submitted a report or provided a verbal response to the study. DP&Z, recently, again resent the information and forms to the cities of Miami Gardens, Sunny Isles, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Town of Medley, and the Village of Palmetto Bay.

For your information, the DP&Z staff has conducted and completed its survey of existing billboards within the unincorporated area and that report will be provided with the municipal reports. Once those remaining municipal reports have been submitted, staff of DP&Z will coordinate a meeting in the early part of January 2005, with all municipal staff to discuss the results of the study and enforcement measures that need to be taken against the billboards that are not in compliance with the County's Zoning Code. Staff will work with the outstanding municipalities to get their information in. It is my intent to provide the required staff report to committee by February 2005.

It should be noted that large signs and murals have been erected in the City of Miami. I have talked with City Manager Joe Arriola about the applicability of the County's countywide sign code and that compliance is needed. The City Manager has indicated that he would particularly like to see a core downtown zone approved wherein certain types of large signs and murals would be allowed. Any such zone would be proposed for creation taking into account the international stature of Miami and the artistic synergy that murals can add. I have asked our DP&Z staff and County Attorney's Office to discuss this matter with the City of Miami to draft modifications to the County Code for your consideration.


Deputy County Manager

Billboard Sign Study

Municipalities That Have Submitted Report

Hialeah Gardens
Miami Springs
Florida City
Miami Lakes
Doral
Aventura
Pinecrest
South Miami
Homestead
El Portal
Miami
Opa-Locka
Hialeah

Municipalities that have verbally stated there are no billboard signs, but have not furnished report.

Bal Harbour
Miami Beach
Indian Creek
Miami Shores
Biscayne Park
Sweetwater
Golden Beach
Bay Harbor Islands
Surfside
Key Biscayne
West Miami
Virginia Gardens

Municipalities that have not submitted report or provided verbal status report

Coral Gables
Medley- (resent information package on Dec. 1st as requested by town)
Miami Gardens- (resent information package on Dec. 3rd as requested by city)
North Bay Village
North Miami- (resent information package on Dec. 1st as requested by city)
North Miami Beach- (resent information package on Dec. 1st as requested by city)
Palmetto Bay- (resent information package on Dec. 2nd as requested by city)
Sunny Isles- (resent information package on Dec. 2nd as requested by city; one remaining billboard)